REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 30, 2005, having a shortened statutory period set to expire September 30, 2005. Proposed amendments are submitted for Claims 1-12. Upon entry of the proposed amendments, Claims 1-12 will be pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

In paragraph 1 of the present Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wrench, JR (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0104025 A1 – "Wrench"). In paragraph 2 of the present Office Action, Claims 2, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wrench in view of Sasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,071 B1 – "Sasaki"). Also in paragraph 2 of the present Office Action, Claims 3, 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wrench in view of Norris et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0095568 A1 - "Norris"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in light of the proposed amendments.

Wrench teaches a standard private/public key pair cryptology system that uses a separate security system between a client and a server. Wrench teaches that the private key in the key pair may be stored in the client computer and password-protected (Wrench, paragraph [0028]).

Sasaki teaches accessing securely stored information with both a unique user ID and a password (Sasaki, col. 5, lines 41-45).

Norris teaches the use of hashing to establish a secure connection between a client and server (Norris, paragraph [0091]).

With regards to exemplary Claim 1, the cited art does not teach or suggest "storing a plurality of keyfiles for different users in a data storage that is accessible only to a client computer" (as supported, inter alia, in Figure 2 of the present specification); wherein "each of said keyfiles comprising a unique private cryptology key, a corresponding public cryptology key,

and a name of a Certificate Authority (CA) that issued the unique private cryptology key and the corresponding public cryptology key for a specific user" (as supported on page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 3 of the present specification); "storing a plurality of passwords in said data storage, each of said passwords being associated with a respective keyfile, each of said passwords being capable of opening only one of said keyfiles (as supported, inter alta, on page 12, lines 4-8 of the present specification); in response to receiving one of said passwords input from the specific user, opening said one of said keyfiles associated with said one of said passwords and said specific user; and transmitting from said client computer to a server a digital certificate from said open keyfile to enable said server to authenticate an identity of said specific user from a plurality of users who are authorized to use said client computer, wherein a secure connection is established between the client computer and the server for the specific user."

Specifically, the cited art does not teach or suggest storing multiple users' keyfiles in a single client computer. Wrench, for example, teaches that a user may input his name and password to gain access, via a security system, to multiple nodes on a network (Wrench, paragraph [0005]). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the converse, in which multiple users use a same client computer to establish different and individual (user specific) secure connections with a server.

Thus, by having multiple keyfiles (for different users) stored in a data storage that is only accessible to the client computer, then different users can use the same client computer to establish a secure connection with a server as described and claimed by the present invention.

CONCLUSION

As the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the pending claims, Applicants now respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,

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